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C O N F I D E N T I A L YEREVAN 000934

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/CACEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/20/2014

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AM](#) [IR](#)

SUBJECT: FM OSKANIAN DISCUSSES VISIT TO IRAN; GOI POSITIONS
ON IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, AND NUCLEAR ENERGY

Classified By: Ambassador John Ordway for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d)

SUMMARY

1. (C) Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian discussed his April 11-12 visit to Iran with Ambassador April 13, providing details on his meetings with Iranian Foreign Minister Kharrazi. According to Oskanian, Kharrazi said that Iran is not supporting Shia insurgents in Iraq and feels the current situation in the country "will get worse." Oskanian told us Kharrazi also said he believes that Pakistan has not been a full partner in the war on terror and that the Taliban are "making a comeback" in Afghanistan. Kharrazi further told Oskanian that Iran's pursuit of nuclear technology is peaceful and part of a five-year plan to boost domestic energy production. End Summary.

IRAQ

2. (C) Oskanian told the Ambassador that Foreign Minister Kharrazi told him that the Shia in Iraq had not requested assistance from Iran. Oskanian said he had "the impression" that Iran is in contact with the militant Shia groups. Oskanian told us that Kharrazi indicated that the United States had not asked for Iran's assistance in quelling the Shia insurgency, but could provide help if asked. Oskanian said Kharrazi believes that the situation in Iraq "will get worse" and that Iran does not see how the current conflict will "soon die down." Oskanian said he spoken with several senior Iranian officials, including one from the intelligence service, who said they hoped that American forces should stay in Iraq "for a while" to provide stability in the region, but stick to the June 30 timetable to transfer authority to a new Iraqi government. With a successful transfer of power, Kharrazi told Oskanian, the insurgents' position could be undercut. Senior Iranian officials also told Oskanian that they were prepared to help with the reconstruction of Iraq to include energy, transportation and road projects, and emphasized that they could achieve positive results in Iraq if asked.

AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN

3. (C) Oskanian said he spoke briefly with Kharrazi about the situation Afghanistan and Pakistan. Oskanian told the Ambassador that the Iranians believe that the Taliban is "making a comeback" in Afghanistan. According to Oskanian, Kharrazi also said that Pakistan "is closing its eyes to a lot of issues" and "is not being forthcoming" in all it knows about terrorist activities.

NUCLEAR ISSUES

4. (C) Oskanian told the Ambassador that he spoke at length with Kharrazi about Iran's pursuit of nuclear energy technology. Kharrazi assured Oskanian that the construction of nuclear facilities is purely peaceful and part of a five-year plan to boost domestic energy consumption. Kharrazi told Oskanian that Iran currently exports half of the oil it produces, but within two years production could barely satisfy domestic demand. Kharrazi said that Iran intends to become less dependent on domestic oil production, and the building of nuclear power plants is part of this goal along with the construction of 80 new hydroelectric projects.

5. (U) Minimize considered.
ORDWAY